

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application; claims 1-17 are rejected. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 12 and 17 have been amended. Claims 2 and 3 are hereby cancelled.

Claim rejections – 35 USC 102:

Claims 1-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US 6,025,068 to Pekala ("Pekala") as set forth in the Action at page 2.

Reconsideration of this rejection in view of the aforementioned claim amendments and the following comments is respectfully requested.

The claim 1 has been amended to further recite as component (a) an aqueous polyurethane dispersion comprising an anionic polyurethane comprising aromatic polyether polyurethanes, aliphatic polyether polyurethanes, aromatic polyester polyurethanes, aliphatic polyester polyurethanes, aromatic polycaprolactam polyurethanes, and/or aliphatic polycaprolactam polyurethanes. Pekala discloses, coating compositions for microporous substrates comprising, in conjunction with poly(ethylene oxide) of specified molecular weight, crosslinked urethane-acrylate hybrid polymers. Pekala is devoid of teaching compositions comprising the anionic polyurethanes recited in Applicants' claims as amended. Therefore, Applicants' claims clearly are not anticipated by Pekala. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are respectfully requested.

Claim rejections – 35 USC 103:

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6,632,485 to Tang et al. ("Tang") as set forth in the Action at paragraph 5, pages 2-3. The Examiner notes that while Tang does not disclose that the coating has a pH of less than 7, it does teach the use of an acid processed gelatin having a pH of less than 9. Further, the Examiner states that US 6,656,545 to Schliesman et al. ("Schliesman") teaches that a low pH for coatings for ink jet recording medium provides an enhanced effect to the cationic fixing agent and, thus, better print quality. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

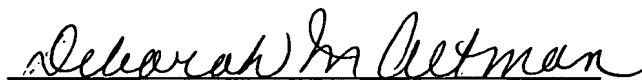
The compositions of Tang are specifically directed to those based on a polypeptide such as gelatin. Polyurethanes are included in the compositions of Tang

to flexibilize the brittle coating that would result from a gelatin coating at low humidity conditions. While Tang generally mentions that the polyurethane used can be anionic, nonionic, or cationic, cationic polyurethanes are disclosed as being particularly effective at reducing brittleness of gelatin-based coatings. Tang neither discloses nor suggests the specific anionic polyurethanes recited in Applicants' claims as amended. Moreover, the pH of less than 9 referred to in Tang is that of the gelatin component of the composition, and not that of the coating composition itself.

Schliesman discloses a composition comprising an aqueous suspension of absorptive silica pigment, a PVOH binder and a cationic fixing agent. In Schliesman, it is suggested that an acidic pH is "enhances the cationic function" of the dye fixative. When an ink jet ink is applied to paper coated with the composition of Schliesman, the absorptive silica particles absorb the ink solvent (i.e., water) leaving the dyes on the surface of the particles and the cationic can better assist in fixing the dye on the surface of the particles. See Schliesman at column 2, lines 41-53. Applicants assert that one would not be motivated to look to Schliesman's low pH compositions to improve cationic fixing efficiency of Tang, because the low pH taught by Schliesman is intended to improve dye affinity for the surface of silica particles dispersed in a PVOH binder system, and not generally to improved dye fixative efficiency. In view of the foregoing, Applications respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 USC 103.

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative, undersigned below, with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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